



CITY OF CARLSBAD
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POLICE ANNOUNCE ARREST IN 2001 MURDER OF RETIRED PSYCHIATRIST

A suspect has been arrested in the 2001 rape and murder of Gladys Conrad, 84. Conrad, a retired psychiatrist, was found dead in her Carlsbad-by-the-Sea residence on September 1, 2001 by a neighbor.



Mexican national Alejandro Avalos Fernandez, 33, was extradited to the United States from Mexico on Tuesday, March 2. He was booked into Vista jail on suspicion of murder, rape, sodomy, torture, and assault. He is being held without bail; arraignment is set for today at 1:30 p.m. in the Vista courthouse.

Fernandez, was arrested in Mexico City on January 23, 2009; the extradition process was completed this week and US Marshals escorted Fernandez to San Diego Tuesday night.

In 2004 DNA from the case was matched to DNA from an unsolved attempted-rape case of a 64-year-old female victim in the Los Angeles area. The suspect remained unidentified until 2007 when Fernandez was arrested on a narcotics charge in Los Angeles and his DNA was entered into the DNA database.

"We are satisfied that the person responsible for this heinous crime is finally being brought to justice, especially for the family and the community's sake. This arrest is a great example of how successful investigations can be with regional cooperation," said Investigations Lieutenant Kelly Cain.

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